

Serial No.; 10/052,932
Filed: 25 October 2001
D-5183

REMARKS

Applicants have Claims 23, 24, 27, 30, 34, 38, and 49-53. Applicants have canceled Claims 1-22, 25-26, 28-29, 31-33, 35-37, 39-47, and 54-62. Claim 48 remains as it was originally filed.

The Examiner noted that "and/or" was interpreted as "or" and Applicants have amended the remaining claims to reflect this interpretation.

The Examiner objected to Claims 1-62 due to the informalities in the alphabetical lettering of the steps. Applicants have amended the remaining claims so that the steps are in alphabetical order with no duplicate identifiers. The Examiner questioned whether Claim 31 was meant to be dependent on Claim 20 or Claim 30. Applicants have reviewed the original case and believe that they intended Claim 31 to depend on Claim 20. The amendments to Claims 34 and 38 reflect this.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-19, 36, 37, 39-47, and 54-62 for various reasons under 35 USC 112. As Applicants have canceled these claims, these rejections are now moot.

The Examiner rejected Claims 20-21, 39-42, 44, 46, and 47 under 35 USC 102. Applicants have canceled these claims. The Examiner further rejected Claims 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 43, and 45 under 35 USC 103. Applicants have canceled these claims.

The Examiner further stated that Claim 48 is allowable and that 49-53 are allowable subject to the above addressed objection. Applicant believes that Claims 49-53 are now also allowable with the above described amendment. The Examiner stated that Claims 23, 24, 27, 30, 34, and 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have made such amendments to Claims 23, 24, 27, 30, 34, and 38 and also now believe these claims to be allowable.

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Applicants respectfully believe the application is in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER MPEP 512

I hereby certify that this **AMENDMENT** is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents on or before September 8, 2004 to (703) 872-9306.

Jeffrey P. Calfa